

Amendments to the Drawings:

Four sheets of drawings are attached. The first sheet, which includes FIG. 1, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 1. The second sheet, which includes FIG. 2, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 2. The third sheet, which includes FIG. 3, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 3. The fourth sheet is a new sheet adding new FIG. 4.

The first three sheets, which include FIGs. 1-3, have been modified to show the new number of total sheets (*i.e.*, 4). The fourth sheet, which includes FIG. 4, has been added to comply with the Examiner's request.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet (1/4) showing FIG. 1
Replacement Sheet (2/4) showing FIG. 2
Replacement Sheet (3/4) showing FIG. 3
New Sheet (4/4) showing FIG. 4

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 27, 37 and 38 are pending in the present application and remain in this application for prosecution. Claims 1, 3, 4, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 27, and 37 have been amended. Claims 1, 14, 18, 27, and 37 are the only independent claims.

The drawings have been object to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Claims 1, 14, 18, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0093136 (“Moody”) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0036427 (“Brandstetter”). Claims 3, 4, 16, and 20-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moody in view of Brandstetter and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0100362 (“Horniak”). Claims 37 and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moody in view of Brandstetter and U.S. Publication No. 2001/0039513 (“Erlichson”).

Drawing Objection

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). Specifically, the Examiner has requested a drawing sheet that includes a flow chart for claims 1, 14, 16, 27, and 37-38. FIG. 4 has been added to comply with the Examiner’s request. No new matter has been added. In addition, the specification has been amended to reflect the addition of FIG. 4.

Claim Rejections

All the pending claims have been rejected as being obvious under a combination of references that includes at least Moody and Brandstetter. In addition, some of the claims have been rejected as being obvious in further view of one other reference, *e.g.*, Horniak or Erlichson.

Each one of the independent claims, as amended, is related to dispensing a sweepstakes entry form in response to “a predetermined triggering condition, said triggering condition being based on at least one of a number of game plays, a frequency of play, a number of activated pay lines, a player-tracking information, and a time of day.” None of Moody, Brandstetter, Horniak, or Erlichson disclose, teach, or suggest dispensing a sweepstakes entry form in response to any of the conditions claimed in the current invention.

Moody discloses a gaming machine that presents to a player a sweepstakes ticket “whenever the player achieves a predetermined outcome on the gaming machine or as a random occurrence.” (Paragraph 2). Brandstetter discloses a dispensing unit that includes a “numeric

counter that alerts the player as to the set number of coins placed into a gaming machine and how many more coins have to be inserted into the gaming machine before the next sweepstakes, lottery or raffle ticket will be generated.” (Paragraph 28). Horniak discloses a ticket dispensing unit that is responsive to output signals, which include “coin-in signals indicating a number of coins that the players insert into the slot machine, coin-bet signals indicating number of coins that the players bet to play the game of the slot machine, or coin-won signals indicating the number of coins that the players win from playing the game.” (Paragraph 10). Erlichson discloses, in general, an automated online sweepstakes system. Clearly, none of the references discloses a “triggering condition being based on at least one of a number of game plays, a frequency of play, a number of activated pay lines, a player-tracking information, and a time of day.”

Thus, claims 1, 14, 18, 27, and 37, along with all the claim dependent thereon, are not obvious in view of any combination of Moody, Brandstetter, Horniak, and Erlichson at least for the applicable reasons stated above.

Conclusion

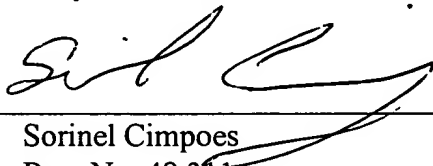
It is the Applicant's belief that all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and thus reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

It is believed that no fees are due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447, Order No. 47079-00117USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 10, 2005

By



Sorinel Cimpoes

Reg. No. 48,311

Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C.

225 West Washington Street, Suite 2600

Chicago, Illinois 60606-3418

One of the Attorneys for Applicant

(312) 425-8542